

**EXPORT OF PORCINE SEMEN TO THE ISLAND OF ST. HELENA - 7250EHC**

**NOTES FOR GUIDANCE FOR OFFICIAL VETERINARIANS AND EXPORTERS**

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**IMPORTANT NOTE**

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OVs) and exporters and should have been issued to you together with export certificate 7250EHC. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 7250EHC.

Exporters are strongly advised to verify the requirements of the importing country by contacting the veterinary authorities, or their representatives in the UK, in advance of each consignment.

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**1. SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE**

Export health certificate 7250EHC may be used for the export of fresh/frozen porcine semen from the United Kingdom to the Island of St. Helena.

**2. CERTIFICATION BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN**

This certificate may be signed by a Veterinary Officer of the Department or a Local Veterinary Inspector (LVI) appointed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), the Scottish Government Rural Directorate, the Welsh Government Department for Rural Affairs or by an Authorised Veterinary Inspector (AVI) appointed by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Northern Ireland (DARD), who is an Official Veterinarian (OV) on the appropriate export panel for export purposes.

OVs must sign and stamp the health certificate with the OV stamp in ink of any colour other than black.

A certified copy of the completed certificate must be sent to the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency (AHVLA) Specialist Service Centre - Exports - at Carlisle within seven days of signing, or in the case of Northern Ireland to DARD, Dundonald House, Belfast.

The OV should keep a copy for his/her own records.

**3. OBTAINING AN IMPORT PERMIT**

The exporter/agent should be aware of the requirements of the importing country particularly with respect to the requirement for an import permit. Exporters may contact the Agriculture and Natural Resources Department of the Island of St Helena at the following address:

Scotland, St Pauls, St Helena Island.  
Telephone + 290 4724 Fax + 290 4603 Email: [svo@anrd.gov.sh](mailto:svo@anrd.gov.sh)

The import permit number should be given in the health certificate at paragraph IV(d).

4. **SCHEDULES**

Parts I and II of the certificate refer. If necessary, separate schedules may be used to identify the donor boars / porcine semen certified. Schedules must contain the same information as that required in Parts I and II and Parts I and II must be annotated "See attached schedule" as appropriate.

Each page of the schedule must bear a page number and the health certificate reference number and must be signed, dated and stamped by the OV.

Schedules must be stapled inside the health certificate and the OV should "fan" and stamp over the pages of the schedule and certificate. The top stapled corner of the schedule and certificate should be folded over and stamped also. Any blank spaces in the schedule or in Parts I and II must be deleted with diagonal lines.

5. **NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE (FORM 618NDC)**

Paragraph V(b) refers. OVs may certify this paragraph on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained on form 618NDC from the local Animal Health Divisional Office (or equivalent in Northern Ireland).

6. **FREEDOM OF THE UNITED KINGDOM FROM OTHER DISEASES**

Paragraphs V(c) and V(d) refer. TGE and Nipah virus encephalitis are not notifiable to the UK veterinary authorities.

No case of TGE has been recorded in the United Kingdom since a limited outbreak in the north of England in 1999. Nipah virus encephalitis has never been recorded in the UK.

In order to certify these paragraphs, OVs are advised to verify the continued freedom of the UK from TGE and Nipah virus encephalitis by contacting the AHVLA Specialist Service Centre - Exports - at Carlisle via the link below:

<http://animalhealth.defra.gov.uk/about/contact-us/tradeexports.html>

7. **COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 90/429/EEC (as amended)**

Paragraph V(a) refers. The semen collection centre must be approved by Defra in accordance with Council Directive 90/429/EEC (as amended). The certifying Official Veterinarian must be fully conversant with the provisions of Council Directive 90/429/EEC and any subsequent amendments, laying down the animal health requirements applicable to intra-Community trade in and imports of semen of domestic animals of the porcine species.

Paragraphs V(e) - V(k), V(o) and V(p) may all be certified on the basis that the collection centre operates in accordance with Council Directive 90/429/EEC (as amended).

8. **FREEDOM OF HERDS OF ORIGIN FROM OTHER DISEASES**

Paragraph V(l) refers. Official Veterinarians should take into account their personal knowledge of the disease status of the herds of origin of the donor boars, if necessary with the support of a written declaration from the veterinarian supervising the herd of origin. This may be further supported by discussion with the local office of AHVLA or DARD.

In respect of PRRS, lack of clinical occurrence of PRRS cannot be certified for a herd which contains pigs which have been vaccinated against PRRS, nor can this be certified for herds in which serological monitoring or other testing has indicated the presence of PRRS. Because of the many and often subtle clinical manifestations of PRRS it is not straightforward to certify an absence of occurrence of this disease. If clinical signs such as reduced appetite and pyrexia, incoordination, circling and falling to one side and sudden death have occurred in groups of boars and an alternative aetiology has not been established, then it should be suspected that PRRS is occurring on the centre (note that concurrent infections with other pathogens are also common in outbreaks of PRRS).

**9. ADDITIONAL LABORATORY TESTING - PRRS**

Paragraph V(m) lays down additional requirements for the testing of donor boars for porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS). The OV must ensure that any laboratory carrying out pre-export testing is officially approved for this purpose by Defra or DARD.

In Great Britain (England, Wales and Scotland), the majority of pre-export testing is carried out at the AHVLA Laboratory, New Haw, Weybridge, Addlestone, Surrey, KT15 3NB, (Tel: 01932 341111). Some tests are carried out at AHVLA Lasswade, Pentlands Science Park, Bush Loan, Penicuik, Midlothian, EH26 0PZ, (Tel: 0131 445 6169). Certain specialist tests are carried out at regional AHVLA laboratories.

In Northern Ireland, the majority of pre-export testing is carried out at the Veterinary Sciences Division (VSD) Laboratory, Stormont, Belfast, BT4 3SD (tel: 028 9052 0011).

For operational reasons however, the laboratories involved may change periodically. Accordingly, the OV is advised to check with the AHVLA or VSD to determine to which laboratories samples should be sent for testing. Samples should always be sent to the laboratory concerned sufficiently in advance of the export date to enable the tests to be carried out and reported. If in doubt as to the procedures for collection, the requirement for transport medium if any, dispatch of samples and the length of time a test is likely to take, the OV should seek the advice of the relevant laboratory.

**10. OMISSION OF PARAGRAPH V 'i'**

The omission of a paragraph V (i) is deliberate to avoid any confusion between the letter 'i' used alphabetically and 'i' used as a Roman numeral in sub-paragraphs.

**11. DISCLAIMER**

This certificate is provided on the basis of information available at the time and may not necessarily comply fully with the requirements of the importing country. It is the exporter's responsibility to check the certificate against any relevant import permit or any advice provided by the competent authority in the importing country. If these do not match, the exporter should contact the AHVLA Specialist Service Centre - Exports - at Carlisle via the link below:

<http://animalhealth.defra.gov.uk/about/contact-us/tradeexports.html>

SPECIMEN